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Third International Conference on Financing for Development
Addis Ababa, 13-16 July 2015

Agenda item 10
Adoption of the outcome document of the Conference

Letter dated 4 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

I have the honour to transmit the text of the speech given on behalf of the least developed countries by Mr. Saliou Akadiri, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese Abroad, at the closing meeting of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development held in Addis Ababa on 16 July 2015, at which Benin served as Chair of the Global Coordination Bureau of the Group of Least Developed Countries (see annex).

I would be grateful if you could arrange for this speech to appear in the verbatim record of this meeting.

(*Signed*) Jean-Francis R. **Zinsou**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 4 August 2015 from the Permanent Representative of Benin to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General of the Conference

Speech of Mr. Saliou Akadiri, Minister of Foreign Affairs, African Integration, Francophonie and Beninese Abroad

Prime Minister,

President of the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Secretary-General of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,

Heads of delegations,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As we prepare to close the work of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, in the beautiful African city of Addis Ababa, it is my pleasure to recall the high expectations that motivated us all to participate in the many activities that were part of the long process of preparing for this meeting. Throughout that process, the least developed countries have called on the international community to focus on freeing them from the poverty trap. They have explained and illustrated the difficulties and harsh realities that characterize their situation.

Despite the specific limitations recently highlighted by the Group of 77 and China in its statement, we welcome the fact that the outcome document just adopted has retained, to a significant extent, several of the concerns expressed by the least developed countries. The Addis Ababa Action Agenda we have just adopted represents a new alliance for sustainable development. We hope that this alliance will make a difference for these countries, as it incorporates innovative measures to boost inclusive growth by structurally transforming their economies, taking into account the three dimensions of sustainable development.

To do so, however, the entire international community must mobilize and embark wholeheartedly upon partnership activities of all kinds, in the spirit of Addis Ababa, in order to promote the significant changes we have set out. These changes include, among others, the indispensable sustainable industrialization of the least developed countries on the basis of their natural resources and their competitive advantages.

We will also be able to develop fresh prospects for offering a life of dignity to all and a better future to our peoples.

The least developed countries call for the full implementation of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda so that its stated objectives do not remain mere rhetoric. They will fully assume their responsibilities relating to the design and implementation of strategies and transformative policies.

The least developed countries wish in particular to thank their partners, from both the North and the South, for the opportunities they have facilitated during this

Conference, which presents new prospects for our peoples to rise together, in a spirit of solidarity and mutuality, towards shared prosperity.

The least developed countries offer heartfelt thanks and convey the great appreciation of their peoples to the Ethiopian People for hosting this historic meeting. For these peoples, the journey to Addis has been a return to their roots, a journey undertaken for the well-being of humanity, starting with the financial paradigms of the new world we want to build.

In closing, I would like to thank all the actors who, on various levels, have worked tirelessly to ensure the success of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, and particularly the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General of the United Nations for their unwavering commitment to the cause of humankind, in the varied experiences of our peoples.

Long live the international community,

Long live multilateralism,

Long live international solidarity in the service of human dignity for all.

Thank you.